



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1996

No. 100

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Ms. GREENE of Utah].

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] for 5 minutes.

FEDERAL REGULATION IS CONSTRICTING BUSINESS

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today to talk about a recently released survey conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce regarding Federal regulation and its effect on business. The results of the study are overwhelming and I commend the U.S. Chamber for their efforts.

When you look at the results of this study it's easy to see why so many freshman Republicans were elected in 1994 on the promise of less government.

Duplicative, burdensome regulation of business has caused job loss, lower wages, and in some cases increased the violation of the laws because employers are afraid to consult with the regulators and their gotcha mentality.

This country's largest employer is small business and what this study shows is if we relieve them of many of these unnecessary regulations, we will increase salaries, increase employment, increase productivity, and stimulate the overall economy.

As the study points out, currently the only people who are benefiting from overregulation are the attorneys, accountants, and compliance consultants.

It's kind of like the Federal Government's own form of trickle-down economics. We'll create more regulations which will then create a need for lawyers, bureaucrats, and inspectors. Never mind that we're ruining small businesses. Maybe that's why the trial lawyers are such major contributors to the reelection of the current President.

The most troublesome fact is one that many of us have been stressing for a long time, most recently during the debate over increasing the minimum wage. And that is, ultimately the costs incurred by the employer trying to comply with Federal regulations is passed on to the consumer which as we all know causes inflation.

Additionally, one in six survey respondents reported having to lay off employees in order to offset the costs of compliance. I sincerely hope the U.S. Chamber puts an asterisk or a star or something by that figure on the copies of the study provided to Members who support further necessary regulation.

Only 1 in 10 respondents reported learning about new regulations from the agency who enacted it. So all of the various trade associations and lobbyists are actually people who are simply trying to keep up with the hundreds of new regulations that affect their industry. In other words, the Federal Government is saying, "We'll come up with whatever we want, and it's your job to find out what that is."

Finally, I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the legislative efforts that I personally have, and will, be working on. In fact, when I saw the results of the study it felt as though I was looking at a mirror.

H.R. 707 is designed to reform OSHA in a manner that would move the agency's enforcement capabilities and efforts into more consultation and cooperation. Isn't it funny though how when the Democrats controlled the Congress and bills like mine were introduced the agency never even batted an eye. Now all of the sudden I've got Joe Dear, OSHA's Executive Director, calling my office saying, "We want to work with you." But isn't it amazing that when they are coming up with these regulations they don't want to work with the businesses they are affecting.

H.R. 1047 would encourage for voluntary compliance with environmental rules. Currently, if a company tried to police themselves and a potential environmental problem was found they can't even seek leniency from the Federal Government for trying to fix the problem.

Last, I will soon introduce legislation that will exempt small businesses from many of these unneeded regulations. In short, we need to unchain our system of regulation and let it prosper.

In closing, I think the Chamber is to be commended for their efforts on this study and I think it clearly shows how desperately we need to ease the regulation of our businesses. And I think it's very appropriate to bring this excellent study to the floor today because the other Chamber of this body will be considering raising the minimum wage today, a measure this Chamber passed regretfully I believe. Remember, the best thing about our Federal Government is, it's always there when it needs you.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DOLE BOYCOTTING NAACP CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H7117